

Subject: [Patrin] Serbian Roma in Denmark to be expelled

Date: Mon, 10 Jun 2002 13:06:54 +0200

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To: patrin-roma-culture@igc.topica.com

I forward a message I got from a Romani friend from Kosovo who is seeking asylum in Denmark.
Irka

The 700 2Serbs2 to be sent back ar not serbs at all – they are hapless Roma/gipsies caught in a cynical game

The Danish, Serb and Montenegrin governments have 29 May concluded an agreement to deport 700 2ex-Yugoslavs2 to Serbiand Montenegro. More than 80% are Roma/gipsies caught in a cynical game.

- Why are they sending us back? Asks one of the Roma. – We know. It is because the politicians get money for it. The corruption is very bad in these countries and politics is always about money!

The more than 500 Roma have been in Denmark for a long time, some for five years. The children speaks Danish and also many of the adults. They were grateful for escaping ex-Yugoslavia. Now they fear for their lives.

- It is very difficult for Danish people to understand our situation. Under Tito there was not difference between ethnic groups, he did not allow it. But now who you are is everything. We are only 3gipsies2 and we have noone to protect us, explains one of the Roma.

In the Balkans it is important for your survival and livelihood that you have someone to protect you. Before the war there were also Roma/gipsies in Parliament, but no longer. Why is this? When Tito was alive everybody were equal, Serbs, Roma, Croat, Albanian, everyone was a human being. Today there are very clear differences and the Serb have all the police, the power and the money.

- We are very affraid for the future, explains a third Roma. There is so much mafia now, and the mafia and the police work closely together. When there is a crime that needs to be solved, the police catch a 3gipsy2 and beat him until he confesses the crime, and then the mafia escapes punishment, tells one Roma. – I can't go back to Serbia, because then I got straight to prison for a crime I did not commit!

The more than 500 Roma/gipsies have been very happy and thankful for their stay in denmark. More than 120 were gathered this weekend in an asylumcenter in Holeby to discuss the consequences of the Danish government trade in humans. None of them have had any problems with the Danish police, and they vehemently reject the general postulate that Roma/gipsies all steal.

- All we ask for is to be given a job and get piece of bread. We want to live in peace. We don't fight like the other groups. We don't want to go back and be beaten, raped and have everything stolen from us, says one of the Roma/gipsies. – What will become of our children? We have no future in Serbia, that is why we escaped in the first place. Many still have relatives

ort friends in Serbia and we know how bad the situation is and it is getting worse! But nobody will tell the government! – We would much rather kill ourselves and our children than be deported back to Serbia

A deputation from the more than 120 Roma/gipsies that had gathered will now be asking for a meeting with the 2Refugee Council2 (Flygtningeenævnet) and the Minister for Integration to ask for a stay in the deportations until the situation in Serbia is safe for them.

Further information from
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